

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

February 9, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.

The Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany



The Miraculous Draught of Fishes by Jacopo Bassano, 1545

.....
***United in the Spirit, First United Methodist Church of Belmont exists
to be more like Jesus Christ for our community and beyond***
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THE REVEREND GEORGE RAGSDALE, SENIOR PASTOR
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A Light to the Nations

Experiencing and Sharing the Light of Christ

Good morning and welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! This morning we continue our worship series exploring how Jesus Christ is revealed to the world as our light and our salvation. In today's scripture Jesus calls his first disciples. They are fishermen and he strangely tells that with him they will no longer catch fish but people. We find ourselves here today as those who have, in one way or another, been caught. It's the way God has chosen to work in this world – by calling and claiming us to be part of Jesus' ministry that continues today.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Priere a Notre-Dame"

Leon Boellman

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Margie Ligon

Come, all who long to hear the voice of the Lord!

We gather to listen and respond to Christ's call.

Cast your nets into the deep waters of faith.

We trust in God's abundance, even when we cannot see it.

Leave behind fear and doubt, for Christ is here.

We will follow where Jesus leads, for He is our Savior and Lord!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 126

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we often doubt Your power and resist Your call in our lives. Like Simon Peter, we focus on our own efforts and limitations instead of trusting in Your abundant provision. Forgive us when we hesitate to follow you, clinging to fear and comfort rather than stepping out in faith. Renew our hearts, that we may respond to your voice with humility, trust, and a willingness to leave everything behind to follow you. Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI No. 70

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Jennifer Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 5:1-11

Genora Cheshire

This is the Word of God for the People of God. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

The Rev. George Ragsdale

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881

The Apostles' Creed

INVITATION TO PRAYER

***Light of the World Treasure of Heaven
Brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky
Joy of the Father reach through the darkness
Shine across the earth send the shadows to flight
Light of the World from the beginning
The tragedies of time were no match for Your love
From great heights of glory You saw my story
God You entered in and became one of us***

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

*After each petition we enter into the prayer together with these words: Lord, in your mercy.
hear our prayer.*

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"We Are Called"

Becki Slagle Mayo

Arise, O church of God!

We are called to be God's people, going forth in love and grace.

We are called to shine in darkness as we journey from this place.

We are called to serve each other, called to be God's hands and feet.

We are called to show compassion, sharing Christ with all we meet.

We are called to love our neighbor, called to help a world in need.

We are called to be disciples, sharing Christ in word and deed

Proclaim in one accord the story of redeeming love, the message of our Lord.

THANKSGIVING

*ACT OF PRAISE

"Doxology"

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts!
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*THE LORD'S PRAYER (Hymnal No. 895)

GOING FORTH AS WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Would I Have Answered When You Called"

***Would I have answered when you called, "Come, follow, follow me!"?
Would I at once have left behind both work and family?
Or would the old, familiar round have held me by its claim
and kept the spark within my heart from bursting into flame?***

***Would I have followed where you led through ancient Galilee,
on roads unknown, by ways untried, beyond security?
Or would I soon have hurried back where home and comfort drew,
where truth you taught would not disturb the ordered world I knew?***

***Would I have matched my step with yours when crowds cried, "Crucify!"
when on the rocky hill I saw a cross against the sky?
Or would I too have slipped away and left you there alone,
a dying king with crown of thorns upon a terrible throne?***

***O Christ, I cannot search my heart through all its tangled ways,
nor can I with a certain mind my steadfastness appraise.
I only pray that when you call, "Come, follow, follow me!"
you'll give me strength beyond my own to follow faithfully.***

*POSTLUDE

"Air from Water Music Suite"

G.F. Handel

**Those who are able please stand.*

Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! We're glad that you've chosen to worship with us this morning. We invite you to explore all the opportunities we have for children, youth and adults of all ages and stages of life. We seek to be a community of faith that welcomes all as we grow to be more like Jesus Christ for our community, loving and serving God and one another in all that we do.

If you are a guest, we are honored to have you with us. Please stop by the information center as you leave this morning to receive a small gift and more information about our church. We look forward to getting to know you in the days to come! Welcome!

Today's Bulletin Cover features the work of prominent 16th-century Venetian painter Jacopo Bassano, celebrated for his richly colored, mannerist compositions that harmoniously blend naturalism with vibrant tonal contrasts. In *The Miraculous Draught of Fishes*, Bassano draws inspiration from Raphael's tapestry cartoon of the same subject, yet infuses it with his distinctive style. The painting vividly depicts the astonishment of the disciples as their nets overflow under Jesus' guidance, with Peter kneeling in reverence before Christ, acknowledging his own sinfulness. This work encapsulates spiritual themes of divine providence, the transformative power of faith, and the call to discipleship, inviting viewers to reflect on their own responses to Christ's presence. The work is part of the collection at the National Gallery of Art in Washington.

Prayer after each worship service is available in the prayer room off of the Narthex. Our Congregational Care Ministers and retired clergy are available to pray with you.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR ADULTS

Adult Small Groups on Wednesdays

Stitches & Scripture: Learn to knit and pause to read Scripture. Led by Mary Beth Tipton

Holy Yoga: Taught by Kelly Shelton, a YMCA yoga teacher. All abilities are welcome. There is a cost of \$60 or what you can afford.

Podcast based class: Listen to "The Bible Project Podcast" and then talk about it during class. Topic is on the Lord's Prayer. Led by Kristie Marr

"Undistracted: Capture Your Purpose Rediscover Your Joy" by Bob Goff. There are so many distractions, how do you know what direction to go? Led by Doreen Collins
Sign up at fumcbelont.org/smallgroups

Join the Ladies of ***Square Two*** on February 13 at 11:45 a.m. for a special Valentine's lunch with live music from "Key of D" at the Community Cafe' in Carpenter Hall.

Saturday, February 15 the ***men of the church will meet*** for a time of devotion and friendship at 8:30 a.m. in the Youth House.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR YOUTH

All youth are invited to **Connect** on February 16 to prepare for Youth Sunday. Please see Quanna if you would like to participate in the services on February 23 and are unable to attend on the 16th.

All youth are invited to attend **Connect** on Sunday, March 2 and 9 for games and small group devotions. Please join us!

Youth Luncheon -All youth are invited to go out to lunch together on Sunday, March 16. We will leave campus around 12:15 and return by 2:30. Let's enjoy Qdoba, Sweet Frogs, and fellowship together! Sign up online to reserve your spot.

CHURCH GATHERINGS FOR CHILDREN

Crossroads (4th-5th graders) will meet at Anne Springs Close Greenway today from 2:00-4:00 for a team-building event.

First Kids are invited to join us 6:30-7:30 on Wednesday nights for our **Glow in the Dark** small groups. Together we are learning that darkness may be scary, but it's nothing that the light of Jesus can't fix.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

We are having a special event at our **Community Cafe this week**. On February 13th, the **"Key of D"** musical trio will be providing us with special music as we dine. Join us as we support the women of Dahlia Grove who are recovering from human trafficking, domestic violence or drug addiction by dining with us between 11:45-1:15.

Want to help with disaster relief? The United Methodist Committee on Relief requires every volunteer to be trained before helping. **The Early Response Team** (ERT) training program supports preparedness and immediate response efforts to disasters by supplying survivors with food, water, shelter and help with mucking out and cleaning up. The next training to be certified is Saturday February 15th, from 9-4, at Matthews UMC. Please contact Margie at margie@fumcbelmont.org if you are interested in attending the training. Space is limited.

February 22nd is our next opportunity to help **Room in the Inn** serve our neighbors without houses. Serve with us as we partner with Christ UMC in Charlotte. Learn more and sign up to help at fumcbelmont.org/roomintheinn.

We have kicked off our annual **Pine Needle Sale** to benefit the work of the Men's Group and our Youth Group. The pine bales will be here March 7th and 8th. The cost of pine bales is the same as last year, \$5.75. Don't wait to place your order as we typically sell out before the month ends. Order forms are at the Welcome Center.

Thanks to those who have faithfully provided dinner for our families at **Catherine's House** throughout the year. We need help with a meal on March 10th. To sign up to help go to fumcbelmont.org/catherineshouse

Many hands, feet and trucks are needed to support the Pine Needle sale. If you are able to help please contact Quanna McAlister or go to www.fumcbelmont.org/pineneedles to sign up to help.

First United Methodist Church of Gastonia is the official safe space for the **Gaston County Warming Center**. Any night when it is projected the temperature will drop below 32 degrees FUMCG will open their family life center to take in anyone in need. Sign up to drop off food or stay and be a hospitality host. If you would like to help care for our neighbors go to www.fumcbelmont.org/warmingcenter for the link to sign up.

Do you have a neighbor who needs some comfort care to help them during a difficult time? If so, we have chicken soup in our church freezer made for them. Pick up a quart of homemade chicken soup prepared by our **Soup for the Soul** cooking team to help you show compassion to others.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, February 9

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 2:00 p.m. Crossroads at Anne Springs Close Greenway

Monday, February 10

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Racial Healing & Reconciliation
- 6:30 p.m. Service & Missions

Tuesday, February 11

Wednesday, February 12

- 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist/Narthex Prayer Rm
- 5:30 p.m. Meet in the Middle Meal
- 5:30 p.m. Alleluia Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. Small Groups
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 13

- 11:45 a.m. Community Cafe'
- 11:45 a.m. Square Two Luncheon
- 12:00 p.m. Newsletter Deadline

Friday, February 14

Saturday, February 15

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Meeting

Sunday, February 16

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Anne Tria

Gavin Hanigan, Gail & Ed Hanigan's grandson

Roger White

Cheryl Sutton's mother, Frances Soule

Beverly Karr's son, Kendall

Beverly Karr

Drucilla Harris, sister-in-law of Sam and Janice Pennington

Laura Abernathy, Leigh Nance's sister

Liz Gray's father-in-law, Charlie Gray

Avery and Emma Tipton's cousin, Hannah

Susan Burnette

Cindy Griffin's nephew, Alex Underhill

Cindy Griffin's sister, Lynda Jenkins

Wyatt Henry Phillips, son of Davis & Erika Phillips and great grandson of Sue Teeter

Mary Grace, wife of Jacob (Mary Rutledge's nephew)

Cooper Ritchie

Charles Motsinger

Erin Carver, Renee and Tim Painter's daughter

Murphy Clark and family

*You can submit prayer requests to
prayers@fumcbelmont.org*



Meet in the Middle

Please sign up to help serve
or clean up at
fumcbelmont.org/meetmiddle

Midweek Fellowship Meals
Wednesday - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**Feb. 12 meal: Pulled Pork, baked beans,
coleslaw, chicken nuggets and dessert.**

Meals cost FUMC \$10 per adult, \$5 for children. We
ask those who join us to contribute what they can.



**CELEBRATE VALENTINES
WITH A SPECIAL LUNCH AND LIVE MUSIC FROM
"THE KEY OF D" AT THE COMMUNITY CAFE ON
FEB 13TH**

At the
cafe

Dahlia Grove

11:45-
1:15



PREORDER PINE BALES

Available March
7th & 8th

Proceeds support the Youth and Men's
Groups. Order with the QR code or a
paper form at the information table



OUR STAFF

Carole Bertino | Administrative Assistant | carole@fumcbelmont.org
Doreen Collins | Director of Adult Discipleship | doreen@fumcbelmont.org
Heather Gaskins | Director of the Child Development Center | heather@fumcbelmont.org
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